

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (new) A process for the preparation of a dispersion of a rigid-chain conjugated polymer, which is insoluble in organic solvents, in an aqueous or organic or aqueous-organic dispersion medium, comprising steps of:

- a) preparing a solution of the polymer in a strong acid or in a liquid mixture comprising a Lewis acid; and
- b) introducing the solution prepared in step a) into an aqueous surfactant solution so as to form a dispersion of the polymer.

Claim 18. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein, after step b), the following further steps are carried out:

- c) separating the dispersed polymer from the aqueous phase of the dispersion obtained in step b);
- d) washing the separated polymer;
- e) re-dispersing the washed polymer in an aqueous or organic surfactant solution.

Claim 19. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein step b) and, optionally, step e) are carried out under the influence of ultrasound.

Claim 20. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the rigid-chain conjugated polymer is selected from the group consisting of aromatic, heterocyclic ladder polymers, polyquinolines, polybenzothiazoles, polybenzoimidazoles, polyheterodiazoles and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the rigid-chain conjugated polymer is poly(benzobisimidazobenzophenanthroline) (BBL).

Claim 22. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the strong acid employed in step a) is methane sulfonic acid or concentrated sulfuric acid.

Claim 23. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein a solution of the polymer in a nitroalkane/Lewis acid mixture is prepared in step a).

Claim 24. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the surfactant employed in step b) or in step e) is selected from the group consisting of ethoxylates, polyethylene glycols and fatty amine ethoxylates.

Claim 25. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the content of the polymer in the solution prepared in step a) is 0.1 to 5 wt-%.

Claim 26. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the content of the surfactant in the surfactant solution employed in steps b) or e) is 0.01 to 5 wt-%.

Claim 27. (new) The process according to claim 17, wherein the size of the dispersed polymer particles in the dispersion produced lies in the range of 10 to 800 nm.

Claim 28. (new) A dispersion of a rigid-chain conjugated polymer, which is insoluble in organic solvents, in an aqueous or organic or aqueous-organic dispersion medium, wherein the size of the dispersed polymer particles lies in the range of 10 to 800 nm.

Claim 29. (new) The dispersion according to claim 28, wherein the dispersion medium consists essentially of water or a mixture of water and an organic solvent which is miscible with water.

Claim 30. (new) A method for preparing a thin film of a rigid-chain conjugated polymer, comprising using a dispersion according to claim 28.

Claim 31. (new) A method for preparing an electronic element comprising using a dispersion of claim 28.1

Claim 32. (new) The method of claim 31 wherein the electronic element is a field effect transistor, an organic LED or a photovoltaic cell.